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Oct. 2, 2013

Public Service Commission of SC  
PO Drawer 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Commissioners,

As a customer of USSC living in Shandon Community in Rock Hill, SC, York County, I am writing to protest the rate increase proposed by Utilities Services of South Carolina. This is in reference to Docket No. 2013-201-WS. I understand that all companies have to make a profit to stay in business. I understand that improvements have been made to our system recently, but I am not aware of what they are.

Many years ago the sewer backed up into my home and was a big problem. This issue was caused by roots getting into and clogging the old clay sewer piping at that time. That issue was resolved and restoration to my home was made. Later the company replaced the sewer pipeline that traverses our side of the community with plastic pipe, but the piping was not replaced behind my home. I asked the installers why that was not being done and was told that they did not want to dig up my yard. I never was happy about that because they do have a right of way. I would have been happy with the plastic pipe installation across my yard, but no one contacted me about doing it. If I am incorrect on this, I would appreciate being correctly informed. I welcome USSC to install a plastic sewer line across my yard.

I will say on behalf of USSC that they do seem to do a good job of maintaining the system. However, the rate increases in my opinion are excessive. I am retired with a fixed income. These increases will put a strain on any budget.

The rates as I understand them are:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Base Water	\$ 16.53	\$ 24.24
Commodity Charge	\$ 5.40 / 1000 gals.	\$ 7.91 / 1000 gals.
DHEC Fee (water)	\$ 2.29	\$ 2.29
Sewer	\$ 41.39	\$ 65.31

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The Base Water will go up by \$ 7.71, an increase of 46.64%

The Commodity Charge will go up \$ 2.51, an increase of 46.48%

The DHEC Fee remains unchanged

The Sewer Fee will go up \$ 23.92, an increase of 57.79%

The above rate increases produces an average increase of 50.37%.

My utility bill averages about \$ 105.00 / month. With a 50.37% rate increase that means I can expect to pay a minimum of about \$ 157.89 / month assuming my usage remains about the same and at this time it will. A 50% rate increase is unacceptable and I protest such an increase. Our rates are high enough. I think USSC should rethink their pricing for the Shandon Community Utility System at this time. Should the Commission decide to grant a rate increase, no commodity I know of has gone up that much at one time. Any increase granted should be kept to a minimum. Thank you for all consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Baker

3072 Shandon Rd

Rock Hill, SC 29730

cc. Utilities Services of SC